

March 31, 2003

BOS

5/19 (7)

Dear Trey,

While I know you are up to your necks in things to get done prior to Town Meeting, I hope you can squeeze this item into an upcoming agenda soon. It should be easy and quick to consider, so shouldn't detract too much from your other urgent business.

It has been so long since this fund has been used that I have been unable to determine what paperwork was executed in the past to approve expenditures. The minutes of the BOS meeting would of course establish your approval if so voted. I've included a form you might want to use to signify BOS approval; and which could also be used by Bill Ryan and Steve Donoran.

Thanks for any help you can give as to this
Frank Gaur

Acton Memorial Library

486 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-9641/9642

March 31, 2003

Mr. William H. Shupert, Chairman
Acton Board of Selectmen
Acton Town Hall
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Shupert

You are aware I am sure of the outstanding poetry readings started in 2001 honoring Robert Creeley, who grew up in Acton and went on to become one of the world's finest poets. Mr. Creeley was the principal reader at the inaugural event in April 2001. Last year, we had Galway Kinnell, a Pulitzer Prize poet. This year, Grace Paley, another renowned author of both prose and poetry will be the main reader. The quality of the poets we have attracted and the size and enthusiasm of the audiences we have drawn have made this now annual event the cultural highlight of the year in Acton.

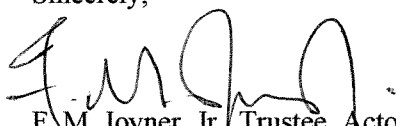
Though we have been successful in getting outstanding authors to perform in Acton for quite modest fees, due to the hard work and negotiating skill of Robert Clawson, the Acton citizen who first envisioned the Creeley Day event and to the prestige and support of Mr. Creeley, it is still a relatively costly event. In the past and again this year we have gotten support from the Friends of the Acton Libraries, the AML Foundation, Community Education and the A-B Cultural Council. This year we are as much as \$1,000 short of covering the costs for this event. Some of this might come from Acton Memorial Library program funds; however, because of the severe financial constraints facing us and the rest the town, we are reluctant to do so.

There is a source of funding established to support such cultural events as this, the Georgia Whitney Fund. This trust fund, which has not been used in quite a few years, was left to the town specifically to support cultural and educational events for the students of the high school and Acton citizens. Since the principal readers always go into the high school to talk with students about their work and many students attend the readings in the evening, this is precisely the sort of event specified by the will setting up the Georgia Whitney Fund (see attached excerpt). The AML Director, Ms Rich has found that this fund has \$14,966.72 of unspent earnings available.

I have talked with Bill Ryan who, as Superintendent of Schools, is one of the trustees of the Georgia Whitney Fund. He agrees that support of this year's event would be a good use of this fund. The high school principal and the Board of Selectmen are the other trustees of this fund. I ask the Board of Selectmen to consider allocating up to \$1,000 to be expended this year to support the Creeley Day poetry reading. Along with the total of \$2,300 contributed by the Friends of the Acton Libraries, the AML Foundation, Community Education and the A-B Cultural Council this would be ample to cover the cost of this event. Since this event will be on April 30, your prompt action on this request is important.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



F. M. Joyner, Jr. Trustee, Acton Memorial Library

Copy to: Mr. William Ryan, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Steven Donovan, Principal Acton Boxborough High School

THE GEORGIA E. WHITNEY MEMORIAL FUND

3160 7302

Accepted at Town Meeting Nov. 17, 1958

VOTED: To accept the gift of Fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars, made to the Inhabitants the Town of Acton by Section 2 of Clause C of the Thirty-second item of the will of Jennie Tuttle, late of Somerville, Mass., deceased, the same to be forever safely invested and held and known as "The Georgia E. Whitney Memorial Fund" and the income therefrom forever used, all as set forth in said Section 2 of Clause C as follows: "To provide education and uplifting instruction and influence for the pupils of the Acton High School and through such schools for the inhabitants of the Town of Acton. I direct that the method of spending this income shall be left to the discretion of an advisory board consisting of members of the Board of Selectmen, the principal of the High School and the Superintendent of Schools having supervision of said High School, all in said Town of Acton. A majority of said Board shall decide all questions. I recommend that the purposes above set forth be accomplished either by maintaining a course of free lectures each year to be given in said Town of Acton primarily for the benefit of said pupils, the members of their families and their teachers, but incidentally for other residents of said Town who may be accommodated thereat, or by providing special instruction in music, in the arts or industry or any combination of all of said methods or a part of them or such other methods as said Advisory Board shall deem best from time to time. It is my desire that said income be used to provide for such pupils, their families and their teachers in said Town of Acton educational advantages which would not be furnished by said Town and which they probably would not otherwise have, such as the best thought concerning government, law, jurisprudence, ethics, moral standards, fine arts, science, industry and the better things of life. I do not desire that this income be so expended that it will be used for general maintenance of said High School nor lessen the burdens of taxation."

Approval of Expenditure from Georgia E. Whitney Fund

In accordance with the will which established the Georgia E. Whitney Fund, naming an advisory board consisting of members of the Board of Selectmen, the principal of the high school and the Superintendent of Schools, the undersigned have reviewed and approve of the following request for and expenditure of funds.

The expenditure of up to \$1,000 from the Georgia E. Whitney Fund to help pay the costs of the 2003 Robert Creeley Day poetry reading, to be held in the Acton Town Hall, room 204, on April 30, 2003, is respectfully requested.

William H. Shupert, Chairman
Town of Acton Board of Selectmen

William Ryan, Superintendent
Acton & Acton-Boxborough School Systems

Steven Donovan, Principal
Acton-Boxborough High School
